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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/029,829	12/27/2001	Zhun Zhong	US 010719	5503
24737	7590	07/20/2004	EXAMINER	
PHILIPS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & STANDARDS P.O. BOX 3001 BRIARCLIFF MANOR, NY 10510			LEE, Y YOUNG	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2613	5

DATE MAILED: 07/20/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/029,829

Applicant(s)

ZHONG ET AL.

Examiner

Y. Lee

Art Unit

2613

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>4</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The information disclosure statement filed 6/5/03 fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2), which requires a legible copy of each U.S. and foreign patent; each publication or that portion which caused it to be listed; and all other information or that portion which caused it to be listed. It has been placed in the application file, but the information referred to therein has not been considered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 2, 3, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.
4. Claims 2 and 18 recite the limitation "said threshold limit" in lines 4 and 3, respectively. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

6. Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-10, and 12-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ishiyama (2001/0008544 A1).

Ishiyama, in Figures 1-9, discloses a picture encoding system conversion device and encoding rate conversion device that is the same system and method for encoding a stream of data blocks using a scalable encoder as specified in claims 1, 2, 4, 6-10, and 12-16 of the present invention, the method comprising the steps of receiving a stream of data blocks; storing the received data blocks in a buffer 21; encoding a first sequence of the stored data blocks 39 from the buffer 21 to produce a first encoded data block; monitoring the fullness level 52 of the buffer 21 for comparison with a predetermined threshold range A3; and adjusting the complexity of the encoder (C1, C2) based on the comparison outcome (B1-B4).

With respect to claims 2, 4, 6-10, and 12-16, Ishiyama also discloses the step of decreasing or increasing the complexity of the encoder (C1, C2) when the fullness level of the buffer exceeds an upper range or is below a lower level of the predetermined threshold limit, respectively (B1-B4); encoding a second data block at the decreased or increased complexity to produce a second encoded data block A5; maintaining the complexity of the encoder when the fullness level of the buffer falls within the predetermined threshold range A4; and storing the first encoded data blocks in a memory medium 26 for subsequent retrieval; wherein the fullness level of the buffer A2 is determined based on an input rate of the stream of video frames 52 and processing feedback information 105 from the encoder 39 after producing the first encoded data block.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

9. Claims 3, 5, and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishiyama in view of Reininger et al (5,426,463).

Although Ishiyama discloses the steps of increasing and decreasing the complexity of the encoder, it is noted Ishiyama differs from the present invention in that it fails to particularly disclose using a predetermined encoding configuration table as specified in claims 3, 5, and 11. Reininger et al however, in Figures 4-6, teaches the concept of such well known encoding techniques.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, having both the references of Ishiyama and Reininger et

al before him/her, to exploit the common predetermined encoding configuration tables as taught in Reininger et al in the encoding method of Ishiyama in order to more precisely control the encoding system based upon the amount of compressed output data being lesser or greater than a predetermined range.

10. Claims 17-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishiyama.

Although Ishiyama discloses the same encoding method, it is noted Ishiyama differs from the present invention in that it fails to particularly disclose an analog-to-digital converter as specified in claims 17-21. However, Examiner takes Official Notice that this feature is notoriously well known in the art.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the common A/D converter in the encoding system of Ishiyama to convert any analog signals into digital signals in order to increase the quality and improve the accuracy of the processing signal.


Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Y. Lee whose telephone number is (703) 308-7584. The examiner can normally be reached on (703) 308-7584.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chris Kelley can be reached on (703) 305-4856. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2613

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Y. Lee
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2613

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